



**Town of Plymouth
Select Board Meeting Minutes
Plymouth Town Hall
Plymouth, NH 03264**

January 28, 2019

Members Present: Mr. Bill Bolton Chairperson, Mr. John Randlett and Mrs. Valerie Scarborough

Members Absent: Mr. Bryan Dutille and Mr. Michael Ahern

Others Present: Mr. Paul Freitas, Town Administrator and Anne Abear
Town Finance Director

6:00 PM: Mr. Bolton called the meeting to order with Mr. Randlett leading in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approve Minutes:

- **January 14, 2019 – Work session** - Mrs. Scarborough made a motion, seconded by Mr. Randlett to approve these minutes. **All in favor.**
- **January 14, 2019 – Non-Public Work Session Meeting Minutes** - Mr. Randlett made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Scarborough to approve these minutes. **All in favor.**
- **January 14, 2019 – Regular Meeting Minutes** - Mrs. Scarborough made a motion, seconded by Mr. Randlett to approve these minutes. **All in favor.**

Announcements:

- The Select Board will meet on the following dates:
 - **Regular Meetings** – 6:00 PM: Monday, February 11th and 25th.
Work sessions prior to the regular meetings will start at 5:00 PM
 - **2nd Budget Public Hearing – If needed/Read Petitioned Warrant Articles**, Thursday, February 7th, 2019 at 6:00 PM.
 - **Town Hall Closure - February 18, 2019 – President’s Day.**

All of the above meetings will be held in the Town Hall, unless otherwise posted.

- Citizens wishing to be listed on the Select Board’s Agenda should notify the Town Hall before 12:00 PM the Friday before the scheduled meeting.

- Alternate members are always needed to fill positions on the Zoning and Planning Boards. If interested, please submit a letter of intent to the Plymouth Select Board's Office at 6 Post Office Square, Plymouth, NH 03264.

Chairman's Comments:

Planning Board – Mr. Randlett reported the Planning Board is in the process of reviewing the implementation of items that can be handled pretty rapidly and scheduling them out. The Board will be working on that for probably the next 2 or 3 work sessions to get things solidified and to get a game plan to start implementation and see where they need to go relative to the new Master Plan. They plan on using the work sessions for that purpose to get things squared away.

Conservation Commission – Mrs. Scarborough reported she attended a Conservation Commission meeting and noteworthy there is that Ina Ahern, a teacher at PRHS, who teaches Environmental Science, came in to talk to the Commission about work projects that her students might be able to get involved in to not only help the Conservation Commission, but also to work on as part of their educational curriculum. This idea was well received. They are going to continue to pursue that idea.

Other Business - No other business to be discussed from the Board. Mr. Bolton stated the Board cannot have a public hearing until 6:15 and asked for any comments from the public.

Mr. Paul Freitas suggested the Board either call a recess until 6:15 or perhaps they could discuss Keno.

Mr. Bolton agreed and spoke on the Keno proposal where Keno is offered as a solution to all full time Kindergarten. The Lottery Commission is seeking towns to institute Keno which would provide revenues for schools to do that. We have not yet addressed Keno, or at least, put it forth to the voters in the Town. The Lottery Commission representative encouraging the use of Keno showed up a few meetings ago and said a couple of businesses were interested in the Town and we should bring it before Town Meeting. We did decide to at least bring it before the assembly at our Town Meeting in March and seek the sense of the Town by putting it out to a vote. At that point, we can get a warrant article next year and go forward with Keno if that is the desire of the Town.

Mrs. Aimee Lee, Cummings Hill Road: If you were to agree to have Keno here in Plymouth, do those funds then go to a pot that is for the whole State?

Mr. Bolton: Yes.

Mrs. Lee: So it would be contributing to not just Plymouth?

Mr. Bolton: Right.

Mr. Freitas: I can talk about trees for a minute. This is about the most cutting of trees for about 30 years. It just so happens that it all occurred at one time. Some are weather related, some are disease related, and the CO-OP has a big clearing project going on. I just want to assure people that we are having a committee put together from the Planning Board and myself. I found out a couple of months ago I was the Tree Warden also in this Town, I did not know that.

With a lot of help from the CO-OP, we are getting a lot of this work done at no cost to the town. The CO-OP, while they are going through and doing their right of way, which they most definitely have a right to do, they are taking care of some of these diseased trees that we have. Some that have been hit by lightning, like the one down at Bistro's, that was going to come down anyway. Also a few on Broadway, where actually $\frac{3}{4}$ of the tree had been removed which leaves me no choice but to take care of the $\frac{1}{4}$ left behind which started leaning into the road and was going to lose itself in 2 or 3 years. But they are going to be replaced, and again, the CO-OP and the company they are using are helping. They have an arborist on board and he is really helping Brian and me. The downtown Main Street area is going with a type of tree where we'll have 4 to 5 choices. The tree is a quick growing tree and stays much smaller at maturity than the types we have out there.

I'd say about 20 or 25 years ago, when we were doing Tree City USA, the businesses downtown just arbitrarily picked out different types of trees all the way down the street. So some came out alright, and some grew way too fast and way too tall which will also get replaced. There was one where a car hit it, right by Rand's Hardware Store. We had to put asphalt there to protect people from tripping and, also, so we didn't have plow damage from the sidewalk tractor. That will be replaced.

A lot of people panicked and it made Facebook that this was going to be the new tree policy in Plymouth. No, trees are being taken down for a reason, it just all happened at once. There was a lot of talk about the tree in front of the PUB and, wouldn't you know, a month and a half later, during one of those big storms, it's one of the trees that took the most damage on Main Street. If this had happened a month and a half earlier, we would never have had that discussion about that tree. But that tree too will be replaced. If it's not necessarily in that spot, then they are looking to help us put trees in other spots at Main Street. I would really like to see them on the West side of Main

Street where the telephone and electrical wires are not so if they do grow that high, 20 to 25 years from now we are not looking at the same problem.

You are going to see 3 stumps on Main Street that grow from 6-10' tall and are left at that height for supposedly safety reasons. If you cut them down to trunk level, people are going to trip over them. We would really damage the road at the time of year they were cut because frost would already set in, so they have to be taken care of at the root source next year and then they will be replaced. Problems you might hear is people are running into them and walking into them. I don't know why people didn't walk into them when they were full grown trees, but they are walking into them now. So we'll tie a yellow ribbon around them I guess. So those are being taken care of. They will be cut flush with the sidewalk and get filled in. A couple of them are going to have trees replaced right where the existing ones were, again, with a smaller tree. Other trees are going to go in the opposite side of the road.

So there is a program in effect, there is a committee being put together and we're going to start meeting after the March meeting and see if we can get a lot more trees replaced in town.

On the Common, we had a similar problem where everyone panicked about 4 years ago, that was a disease problem. We were at risk of losing every tree on the common. So when trees come down they are not just arbitrarily taken down because we want to take them down, quite the opposite. Doug McLane, if you know him, he's always been on board with reestablishing Elm trees in the town of Plymouth. So he's helped out with a lot of free trees and a lot of hours going into that.

And, again, no cost to the town's people. So like I said COOP no cost to the Town, even the replacement of the trees, so hats off and kudos to them. Our budget has not expanded in that area. We've lost a lot of trees down at Fox Park. So we do mitigate and we've done a lot of mitigation when it comes to trees. We don't lose power as often as some of the surrounding towns and that's because of the good mitigation that the highway department does when we see trees that are falling. We still have people in town that feel that they can touch a tree that is leaning on what they perceive as a cable line versus an electrical line. Please don't. That electricity can still arc and come down. We as municipal employees do not touch trees. We either call the cable company or the COOP and they'll come down and handle it. So the trees will do well in Plymouth. We have a lot of healthy trees, and we'll just try and fill in some of the spaces.

Plaque Presentations: None

Correspondence: None

Appointments: None

Visitors:

PSU Update: None

Public Hearing : Mr. Bolton opened the Public Hearing at 6:15 PM

Mr. Bolton: On the Town Budget, we have a few members on the Budget Committee, Ted Wisniewski, Val Scarborough and Marcia Blaine is also on that committee. They put together a very good comprehensive budget. Also we have present Department Heads from several of the Town Departments to answers questions that anyone may have. I'll be going through it page by page just to see if anyone has any questions on any particular page. I'll go as fast as we need to and please interrupt when you see fit. If you have a comment, please raise your hand, state your name and ask your question and we'll address it. Where you live as well if you're a town of Plymouth person or not and we'll go from there.

PBTV - Recommendation anyone with a question to step up to podium and use the microphone so everyone can hear the question.

Mr. Bolton: Regarding Page 1, no questions or comments.

Mr. Bolton: Page 2, any questions or comments?

- Mike Weaver, Tall Pines Road: On the Town Clerk line, if you look at that, it's a 10.8% raise from \$55,000 to \$63,000 where most other employees are only 3% and I would like an explanation.
- Mrs. Abear: After reviewing the surrounding towns of our size with colleges, we actually realized that Karen Freitas, who is our Town Clerk, was extremely underpaid. This is actually only a portion.
- Mr. Weaver: So this is going to work towards...
- Mrs. Abear : to get her closer to where she should be.
- Mr. Weaver, Tall Pines Road: OK that just stood out more than the others.
- Mr. Freitas – And another one of the reasons, she went a couple of years without taking a raise which created that gap.
- Mr. Bolton: No more comments on Page 2, No comments on Page 3, No comments on Page 4, no comments on Page 5.

Mr. Bolton: Any questions on Page 6?

- Mrs. Lee, Cummings Hill Road: I am all for the police officers getting a raise, however, I have a question in regards to why the overtime also needs to be increased?
- Chief Lefebvre: When you give someone a raise, the overtime line has to also increase. In years past, I've had to shave some money out of that and, in this budget, I asked for some of that back, not all of it back, but a little of it back.

Mr. Bolton: No more questions or comments on Page 6. No comments on Page 7.

Mr. Bolton: Any questions on Page 8?

- Mrs. Lee: In regards to the wages for the parking, can you explain what that is going to go towards as it seems like a high number?
- Chief Lefebvre: That line went from a part-time employee to a full-time employee. I was looking at ways to increase revenues for the town, so we hired a full-time employee to do parking enforcement now. We are already seeing an increase in parking meter usage and fines and things of that nature. So our purpose is to take a little money to make a more money.
- Mrs. Lee: Are you eliminating the part-time position for this full time position?
- Chief Lefebvre: Correct. There is no part-time position. As part of cost-sharing, that person's duty is also crossing guard as well, so there won't be a separate crossing guard.
- Phil Lamoreaux, Hilltop Drive: Do you have an idea of roughly what kind of increase in revenue we are seeing?
- Chief Lefebvre: I absolutely do not have that answer in front of me and I'm hoping we can go a few months and get a good solid number. The fact of the matter is, this winter time has been pretty awful for us and we've had to close some parking off and that's going to affect it as well as far as the parking meters revenue goes.
- Mrs. Lee: The \$3,000 for the Dispatch Office expense, what is that going to be used for?
- Chief Lefebvre: The year prior I had to shave that out of the budget. I'm asking for that money back because, I don't want that line to go into the negative this year. Are there any more questions for me? I think that's my last page.
- Mr. Bolton: This also might be an example where a department head doesn't want to debit a certain line. Most departments give back money at the end of the year, so it's not building the budget, they are really just trying to protect what they've been expending.

Mr. Bolton: No more comments on Page 8. Are there any questions on Page 9?

- Mrs. Lee: How much of that is going to be covered by the Schools budget if it is voted in?
- Mr. Freitas: Aimee, Anne's been working with Mr. Halloran on this so even though we all know our piece, Anne knows most of the pieces, she's our Finance Director.
- Mrs. Anne Abear: The school's are supposed to cover 75% if the total cost. This amounts to around \$94,000 reimbursement.
- Mrs. Lee: I sit on the School Board for the Elementary School so I know all that.
- Mrs. Abear: So what's in the School budget for the Resource Officer?
- Mrs. Lee: I don't know that – do we have that figure (asking Phil Lamoreaux)?
- Mr. Lamoreaux: We share it with the High School (inaudible).
- Chief Lefebvre: Between the Schools, if we are talking percentages, 70% +/- jumps out in my head as far as what they are going to be paying as opposed to what we are going to be paying. Anne, Mark Halloran and I sat down and figured out how many days they are going to be using the School because obviously in the summer time we are going to take it back because it's nothing to do with the School, so we're going to be using it for patrol purposes and stuff like that so that's our portion of what we'd be paying for.
- Mrs. Lee: I just wasn't sure what the split was.
- Mr. Freitas: And Aimee, what's happening is one of us has to gross appropriate the full amount and it's the municipality that does that. We don't operate like the School does and we have to show that full amount. But it does get offset by revenue from the two Schools.
- Mr. Lamoreaux: The only thing I'll say is unless there is a revenue line somewhere coming from the School, it's going to look like this is a bill that's hitting the Town twice, one from the School budget and one from the Town budget.
- Mr. Freitas: In the warrant article it states the offsets.
- Phil Lamoreaux: It's not a complaint...
- Mr. Freitas: This isn't a warrant article, but when a warrant article comes out it will be for the Resource Officer. To make it fair for the whole legislative body, the Resource Officer is going to have its own warrant article. In that Resource Officer warrant article, the offsets will be shown. We'll show the Town's portion for the full amount offset by this much for the elementary and this much for the High School and it will be in the warrant article itself.
- Mr. Lamoreaux: And the budget has to be carried, but if the Town doesn't elect...
- Mr. Freitas: That whole line goes away.
- Mr. Lamoreaux: It goes away but it's still going to be collected but coming in as revenue that the Town will have?

- Mr. Freitas: Both sides have to agree. I believe the School goes first, and if it gets defeated at the School level, we won't even be having it at the Wednesday night March meeting for the Town - it won't be there. If it's in the Town books, we'll have to skip over it. You can't have one entity agree with it and the other not be on board.
- Quentin Blaine: Is the Resource Officer going to be tasked to the School during the day, every School day?
- Mr. Freitas: Yes but not during the summer time.
- Mr. Blaine: How about School activities, basketball games or plays or such?
- Chief Lefebvre: The answer to that question is no. It's going to be during School hours. I think everyone knows that during a basketball game or a football game or whatever, the School is kind of open anyway. This is for the security for the students during the normal business hours and the school day. It would be for that purpose.
- Mr. Freitas: When the event is big enough we have police officers for those events anyway.

Mr. Bolton: Any more comments for Page 9? None noted. Page 10 are there any comments or questions?

- Mrs. Lee: Is our ambulance broken? The one we're allocating \$12,000 for?
- Fire Chief, Casino Clogston: We just got it back from being repaired, but the \$12,000 line is for new equipment, if I'm following that line correctly. It's for equipment in the ambulance not for the ambulance itself.
- Aimee Lee: Ok so what is it specifically?
- Chief Clogston,: That \$12,000 is for another scope for the paramedics to put a breathing tube down someone's throat.

Mr. Bolton: Any other questions on Page 10? I see no questions, Page 11?

- Mike Weaver: On Page 11 there is EMD – I think that means Emergency Management Director – there is an increase of a little over 15% in that line there and I'm looking at 3% through the other lines and I'm wondering why that increase is 15% for that position?
- Mr. Freitas: We get reimbursed for that line. I have not increased that line in 13 years, but it does get reimbursed from the federal government. I am the Emergency Management Director....
- Mr. Weaver: So that whole amount gets reimbursed by the federal government?
- Mr. Freitas: More than that. If you look up above, \$439,375 last year with the grants that department got.
- Mr. Weaver: Who is the Emergency Management Director?
- Mr. Freitas: That would be me.
- Mr. Weaver: So it's not the Fire Chief or the Police Chief?

- Mr. Freitas: No it can't be anymore, that changed, Steve, 13 years ago?
- Chief Lefebvre: Yes it had to be 13 years ago.

Mr. Bolton: Are there any other question on Page 11? I see none, Page 12 are there any questions or comments?

- Mrs. Lee: The contracted service for winter highway, can you explain to me what that is?
- Mrs. Abear: We actually contract out snow removal and plowing on Boulder Point they help us haul snow away, and those are the anticipated increases for the coming year.
- Mrs. Lee: I also have a question about the \$10,000, is that for repairs again?
- Mrs. Abear: Vehicle maintenance and repairs.
- Mr. Randlett: What we might mention on repairs is that some of our older vehicles are almost 18 years old. In fact, we have a truck that is in Concord right now that went down during the storm. So because of an aging fleet, we've had to allocate some extra money.
- Mrs. Lee: Then I noticed the wages for the Highway Department are increasing by \$22,000, but then you're cutting the cost when you get to the other page by \$25,000 for road repairs. So can you explain to me why that is happening?
- Mr. Freitas: The road repairs are being taken care of by capital. Plus, I was able to get a grant, so we didn't need as much in road repairs. The increase in salary is a change of personnel. We had 3 or 4 people leave Highway and rehired people with more experience when they came in.
- Mrs. Abear: And we eliminated some of the part-time help as you'll see almost \$12,000 was taken out of that line.
- Mr. Lamoreaux: On the discussion of maintaining older trucks, I see the value of keeping good equipment running. I also wonder does the Town have a capital improvements plan that we're managing and are we budgeting and setting money aside for large capital purchases? Is that something that the Planning Board is involved in or.....
- Mr. Freitas: Partially involved - there is a committee for that. The answer is yes it is and a lot of that got depleted last year with the type of weather we dealt with, that's not supposed to be happening, and we have 4 pieces of equipment down right now. This budget actually included, during the budget process, a \$400,000 loan just to get our heads up above water with the Highway Department. We had to actually take that out because that was going to be another \$1 increase to that tax rate. So during the budget process, it came out. But yes, we have, you see, \$45,000 in heavy equipment, another \$45,000 in light equipment and we have another \$100,000 +/- in reserves already that will be added to that.

- Mr. Lamoreaux: It's understandable that we have a lot of expenses there when you see how many Town trucks are out on a regular basis moving snow.
- Mr. Freitas: It's caught up with the Highway Department. That budget hasn't moved in 9 years and some of our new machines are 18 years old and all starting to go at the same time. We're starting to do a little at a time. Last year we picked up another grader and yes, there is a capital improvement line for that.

Mr. Bolton: Any questions or comments on Page 12? Page 13? Page 14, any questions or comments? Seeing none, Page 15? Any questions or comments on those? Seeing none, Page 16, any questions or comments? Seeing none, any comments on Page 16, Page 17? Any questions or comments?

- Mrs. Lee: I had a question on the grounds maintenance? Is there another line item somewhere else or is this person specifically doing ground maintenance for the library? Or is it a Town person who does it?
- Diane Lynch, Library Director: This is a brand new line for us and one we added in this year. Parks & Recreation have been doing our grounds maintenance forever. We found out this year that the equipment they have to do our grounds, if you are familiar with the library, you know we have a very steeply sloping front yard. It's kind of a safety hazard for them to do that and this wasn't really brought to my attention till this year. The workers felt like they were taking their lives in their hands when they did that. So we went outside to find out what it would cost for us to have that done by the people, the bank actually owns our parking lot so they take care of that, but the same guys that do the shoveling and sanding of our walkway, including the one that goes down the hill because that's our second entrance. We got a quote from them for what it would cost for them to do basic landscaping and grounds maintenance for us. They came up with that figure for us which does exclude mulching and such. But that would be the figure they quoted for just the basic maintenance for us. That's where we arrived with that figure. It's not one guy, it's a team of guys doing it. So we don't have a guy at the library that does that – it's that team of guys doing it for us.
- Mrs. Lee: Where did you get that quote?
- Ms. Lynch, Library: 3 Lakes Landscaping provided the quote.
- Mrs. Lee: Is that the only quote you got?
- Ms. Lynch: That's the only quote we got since they already do that type of maintenance for us.

Mr. Bolton: Any other questions or comments on Page 17, I see none, Page 18? Page 19?

- Mrs. Lee: Is the sidewalk tractor we have not functioning? Is it, again, an old machine like everything else?

- Mr. Freitas: In all honesty Aimee, we just got the other one running. The sidewalk tractor you see us using this year is actually from a company that's letting us try it out for a year without charging us. Believe it or not.

Mr. Bolton: Any other questions or comments on Page 19? Page 20, any questions or comments?

- Ms. Lee: Do you guys have a breakdown of the revenue and where it comes from, like a sheet of where it all comes in? Do you have a separate page?
- Mr. Freitas: We will in the warrant articles. It will be in the Annual Report once we have all those figures.

Mr. Bolton: Any other questions or comments in general?

- Mrs. Lee: When do you think the Town will start to see the tax benefit from the Market Basket?
- Mr. Freitas: In 2 years. You're going to see a partial this coming year (inaudible) and then 33% and a percentage in the budget after this one. Hopefully a lot more, because we'll be seeing other things that are going to be kicking up at the same time.
- Mr. Weaver: Is there anything else going on that may impact the tax? Because a couple of years ago, we had that thing with Boulder Point – like a heads up?
- Mr. Freitas: Yes, Walmart is going for a huge abatement - \$3 million - so things like that happen and we're aware of that one. We could put that \$300,000 in there, which would have an impact, but then your taxes are going to go up – we're fighting it in court right now.
- Mr. Weaver: It would just be nice if those things were out there. How to inform the whole public in your Town I don't know, but if they know about it, it may be a little bit different than Boulder Point where a lot of people thought they should have been informed, and they weren't.
- Mr. Freitas: That's not now it works. Boulder Point was on the docket for a good 3 years. The Department of Revenue makes us use what they know the taxes are going to be as an offset, even though we know there is a good chance we're not going to get it. Three years later, we lost that to the Bureau of Tax & Land Appeals, (BTLA). That's when the Department of Revenue then says now you have to take that off your books. They make you show it as an offset every year. So the first year you're at \$85,000, then \$170,000 and then \$200,000 +/- . Then it finally makes it to the Court and we're told that day, in the summer time, that not only do they not have to pay taxes for that current year – they make it go retro. So we can't find that out in August and then 2 weeks later find out from the State that the million they made us show in our March budget for Highland Street, now in August, we're no longer going to get that. That was another million dollars.

- Mike Weaver: I understand you're not going to know, but if you have an idea that may be coming, or at least explain to the public how that happens, it may go over a little different.
- Mr. Freitas: So these estimates have to come true, not this coming June 30, but June 30, 2020. We have to estimate, especially department heads, 18 months ahead of time. So when we get hit 3 months before, it's hard to undo 18 months of preparation. These are expenses we are looking at. We're not looking at how we're going to finish next year, we are looking at how to finish things for June 2020, and the offsets are the same way. We lose offsets in June every single year. They make us put it down, but 18 months from now, when they take it away, we get a two month notice. So how do we let you know 18 months ahead of time, when they let us know maybe 60 days before it happens?
- Mr. Weaver: You can't let them know. It's more the possibility, so the Town's people understand there is a possibility it is going to happen. They don't know, it's just an idea that may make it better.
- Mr. Freitas: We try to entertain it every year. What happened in that terrific storm - out of the \$4 the taxes went up, the same exact thing happened to the School. So we were short a million, the School was short \$900,000. There was the \$400,000 the School couldn't possibly have anticipated, that happened so we were in the same boat.
- Mr. Bolton: I understand what you're saying. If we're aware that Walmart is seeking abatement, we should, at that point, alert people. It's a process that has to play out before we can get people excited that we may be losing \$3 million. It's not like the boy that cried wolf, but....
- Mr. Weaver: Based on people that have talked to me, that's how they just kind of felt. They could have gotten something. I don't know the correct way to do it, but some way so they have an idea, so they don't say why didn't you tell me, even though we can't give them a definite answer. This is what is going on and this is what we are working on. It's a possibility this could happen. It may help, or it may not.
- Mr. Freitas: Again, the 2 biggest things that hit us, was abatements and the State not giving us money that we normally received. Shared revenue this year would have equaled \$820,000. There are things happening in Concord right now that are going to take more revenue. The good thing is they almost don't give us any revenue anyway so we're almost at \$0. We have to find other ways to fend on our way. The State is no longer into School and Town business.
- Mrs. Lee, Cummings Hill Road: Do you think the same thing will happen with Market Basket that is happening with Walmart?
- Mr. Freitas: No, the thing that's happening with Walmart is they are trying to ride the wave of abatement that happened on Boulder Point because they are an abutter. They will use that excuse, that's a legitimate excuse, your neighbor goes down and the abutter says - it's

just next door - I want the same break. What happened five years ago, same entity, Walmart won \$3 million and made it retro. That's what's impacting this Town today. That took it all the way down Tenney Mountain Highway because when they got abated \$3 million, Fugaky's, Tractor Supply, everybody on Tenney Mountain corridor was allowed an abatement. We lost \$47 million on Tenney Mountain.

Mrs. Scarborough: The point that has been made also is that Market Basket could be the thing that stops that abatement from being granted because property values are going to start going up on Tenney Mountain Highway as businesses start seeing economic development. So Market Basket could really help us in that regard.

Paul Freitas: The thing that we've got going for us this time, I hope, is it's more than just Plymouth out there trying to do this thing. So we've grouped together with other Towns and we have the same law firm handling it that does really well at this. The one thing we have going for us in the group is we're the Town that has Market Basket coming in. So Market Basket makes the value of all of Tenney Mountain go up. So it really goes against the argument their property is being devaluated, because people are given abatements left and right, not this time. At that time, almost everyone on Tenney Mountain received a huge abatement that equaled \$47 million of assets for the Town.

Mr. Bolton: Any other questions or comments?

Quentin Blaine, Buckland Avenue: I agree with Mike's idea for communication to us. Because that's something that I think needs to be evaluated. We still have a newspaper, we just don't have any reporters for the newspaper that I know of, so that slows the way we used to do it down - that cuts into it. But maybe evaluate good ideas, look at other Towns, maybe explore the PbCAM.

Paul Freitas: This is a new life for us - when you were Selectman, you guys put down \$3 million for anticipated revenue and you were taking in \$4 or \$4.5 mil. We can't even hit \$3.6. They've changed the rules since then.

Quentin Blaine, Buckland Avenue: I understand that. It's just that communication is a good idea and it's not that you can just call up a reporter and hope to get a story.

Paul Freitas: If you're fighting for a real good communication, it's the State, for people to put pressure on the State to let the Schools and the Towns know a year in advance what amount the State is already planning on NOT giving us a year from now. Instead of giving us

numbers that we have to go by that they know aren't going to hold water a year later.

- Mr. Blaine: There are a lot of politics playing there in the State. The DRA is probably pretty straight forward, but they just take whatever information they are getting. I do have a question, and you may not have the data to answer right off. Maybe Anne has the best idea. The various calculated amounts for FICA, medical insurance and retirement, on the various payrolls, how did we do at the end of the last budget year? Were those pretty exact or was there any big variance in those?
- Mrs. Abear: I would have to look at the budget, but we budget according to what is on the salary line, that's how we budget.
- Mr. Blaine: So you have a calculation and I was wondering how those calculations worked out.
- Mrs. Abear: I'll have to get that for you.
- Mr. Freitas: And going back, so people understand what you're asking, you know there is a huge spread they give us 8% to 10 % of where it could land. We go with the worst case scenario for Primex and such and hope that it comes in at the 2% number and not the 10% number.

Mr. Bolton: Are there any other comments? Seeing none – I'm closing the first budget hearing at 6:56 pm.

Permit Requests: None

Updates and Recommendations: None

Unfinished Business: None

New/Other Business : None

Committee Reports:

- **Chamber of Commerce:**
- **Water District:**
- **Campus Community Council Meeting.**
- **Public Comment: None**

A Motion to adjourn made by Mrs. Scarborough which was seconded by Mr. Randlett. Meeting adjourned at 6:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Colleen Kenny